

## Extracts from

The Inevitability of Renovation

by HASHIMOTO, Kingoro

"The unit which I was in was scheduled to attack NANKING by marching through WUHU and up the YANGTZE River. But two days before the fall of NANKING, we unexpectedly received an order to attack all the Chinese soldiers retreating from NANKING toward the north on board transport ships. We instantly went back to WUHU and laid out a battery of more than one ri (TN, about 4 km.) wide, arranging heavy guns, field guns and machine guns along the road running alongside the river. Just at that time several ships which seemed to be transports full of defeated soldiers came in sight some several thousand metres downstream from WUHU and we opened fire at them.

"I heard that a British warship happened to be in the group and was hit by some of our shells, and that it became a problem later on, but as for the Imperial Army, we merely carried out the proper measures." (p. 13 - 14)

"At that time, an interesting thing happened. After the shelling of the British warship and immediately following the fall of NANKING, a Japanese destroyer came up the river and appeared in front of WUHU. I at once requested the ship to stop and the captain of the ship, a certain Lieutenant-commander, came by launch and landed to see us. We exchanged various informations. After this, I said to the Lieutenant-commander, 'Frankly, we are quite distressed because we have had nothing to eat or drink. I wonder if you can spare us some rice and sake, if you have any?' He readily accepted and answered that he would have his men bring them over.

"'This is it', we said, and waited expectantly. Soon after, the marines brought the rice, but told us that they had no sake. The messenger for the captain said, 'We really had sake with us, but on the way from NANKING, we sank all the innumerable Chinese junks that were floating around full of enemy soldiers. When we thought of all those enemy soldiers becoming food for the catfish in the YANGTZE River, it delighted us so much that we couldn't help drinking up all the sake in celebration of our victory. We feel very sorry that we can't spare you any'. 'O. K.'"

"At that time, even British warships could not pass off WUHU without being fired at and naturally the Chinese transports were not able to go beyond WUHU. The opposite bank was already captured by the Japanese troops. Therefore, the defeated soldiers of NANKING that jumped into the ships could flee neither up nor down the river. As if a big snake had swallowed an elephant, the enemy ships were helplessly cornered on the waters between NANKING and WUHU, unable to move either way. To think that our destroyers really blasted away at those junks made us very happy for it must have been quite effective and delightful." (p. 14 - 15)

"The first important point in the new system is to make a grand revelation of our national polity. That is, it is necessary to have politics, economics, culture, national defense, and everything else, all focused on one, the Emperor,

and the whole force of the nation concentrated and displayed from a single point. Especially, the political, economic, and cultural lines which had been organized and conducted by liberalism and socialism in the past should be reorganized according to the principle of oneness in the Imperial Way (TN, KODO ITTAI SHUGI).

"This system is the strongest and the grandest of all, and, at the same time, is that which will determine the future trend of our nation for a thousand years to come. There are many countries in the world, but there is absolutely no nation that can compare with our national blood solidarity which makes possible a unification like ours with the Emperor in the center.

"In this sense, this system will not only make the development of our principle of the 'Whole World Under One Roof' (TN, HAKKO ICHIU) a success under the present world chaos, but will turn the crisis into a divine opportunity and enable our nation to grasp the reins to lead the world in a new world order. The CHINA Incident may well be called the opening battle for the construction of a new world order.

"Therefore, the new system reveals the characteristic ideal of our race at this critical moment, and at the same time, it is only the new system that can open a clear path for the revelation of the principle of the 'Whole World Under One Roof' (TN, HAKKO ICHIU) and lead the world from its mad confusion. So, this is something more than merely an intention. If it is that which is necessary to a policy, the new system will be unnecessary when circumstances which necessitated the policy disappear. For example, assume that we compromise with AMERICA and BRITAIN, then, the new system will not always be necessary. The new system aims at the establishment of a new world order, organizing a characteristic national system and whatever circumstances may develop to lead these circumstances as according to the principle of HAKKO ICHIU (TN, Whole World Under One Roof), enveloping the whole world in the principle of the Imperial Way, and, at the same time, completely solving the present crisis." (p. 52 - 53)

"The very conclusion that the CHINA Incident cannot be settled unless we cooperate with the Americans and British, prevents the Incident from ever being settled. The moment we establish a policy to drive out all Anglo-Americans from CHINA, CHINA will begin to move toward a new order. The European situation will also change immediately when we make up our minds to form a joint front with GERMANY and ITALY. If we hope in vain that GERMANY and BRITAIN would fight forever, the European War may end earlier than we expect. Only when we rid ourselves of this idea that we have to depend on BRITAIN and AMERICA, and establish the plan to construct a self-supporting economy in the JAPAN-MANCHURIA-CHINA bloc, can we materialize an expansion plan of our armament, production power, independent of BRITAIN and AMERICA. Has the government studied or formed any plans for cementing an economic plan with the intention of freeing itself from a pro Anglo-American policy? We'll lose GREAT BRITAIN and the UNITED STATES, but MANCHURIA, CHINA and the SOUTH SEAS will become ours.

"Of course, it will require a good deal of effort to establish this bloc, and it cannot be mentioned in the same breath with the easy pro Anglo-American policy, but when we face it with the resolution of the soldiers out on the front,

the more difficult things will be, the results will be the real blood and flesh. Instead of relying on foreign sources for materials, to have one's own through toil and hardships should be the nation's attitude.

"Only when we firmly do believe that allying with GERMANY and ITALY, and expelling British and American influences from CHINA, and settling the Incident with definite measures and plans, are the steps our nation should take, will the various administrative plans for the country be formed, the goal of the people determined, and the people, defying all hardships, earnestly strive for the settlement of the Incident with a burning hope for the future. Is it that the government is not endeavoring toward the materialization of this plan because they are selfishly concluding that such a thing is purely an ideal of no practical value? The time is when we must choose between maintenance or destruction of the present status quo. Compromise is not allowed. To Premier YONAI, we ask the government's decision concerning these matters." (p. 73 - 74)